



What is the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)?

Washington State's PMP is called Prescription Review. It is a secure statewide online database that collects patient data on Schedules II, III, IV, and V controlled substances. You can find a list of these medications and more information at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=69.50>.

Most states in the U.S. have a PMP, and [more studies](#) are showing their effectiveness. They are intended to improve public health, enhance patient care, and protect public safety.

How will Prescription Review assist the law enforcement community?

Prescription Review enhances existing authorized methods of information gathering and is not a new source of investigative information. Current state law authorizes law enforcement officials access to medical records maintained by licensed health care providers and prescription records in pharmacies. Prescription Review allows law enforcement to access prescription dispensing information from a single source. This will assist in curtailing pharmaceutical drug diversion.

Prescription Review helps to:

- Increase efficiency and effectiveness in conducting investigations.
- Reduce travel time to collect information from multiple pharmacies.
- Locate and retrieve information with minimal or no intrusion on prescribers and pharmacies.
- Identify and evaluate the seriousness of the allegations, resulting in better prioritization of drug diversion cases.

Who will be entering this controlled substance data?

Prescribers and dispensers of controlled substances. This includes pharmacists, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, dentists, and veterinarians.

When can we access it?

The [Department of Health](#) expects Prescription Review to be ready to receive and respond to requests from law enforcement by January 2012.

Under what circumstances can we request information?

The law allows an authorized law enforcement agency to request information only for a "bona fide specific investigation involving a designated person".

How does our agency become authorized?

Law enforcement agencies will be able to create a master account. Once established, officers conducting drug diversion investigations can create personal sub-accounts. These officers will then be able to request prescription information and receive a report.

Can we print this information?

Yes.

Is this real-time information or delayed?

There may be a lag of up to one week since prescribers and dispensers are only required to report every seven days. Therefore, prescriptions dispensed a few days before your Prescription Review check may not show up.

Is information from adjacent states shown?

Not yet, but it will be pursued in the future.

What kind of flagging system exists?

There is no flagging at this time. It is a static information source.

What is an example scenario for how law enforcement officers may use Prescription Review?

You're investigating the case of a person who has allegedly been selling large amounts of controlled substances. You are trying to find the source of the drugs and determine if they come from legitimate prescriptions from one or more prescribers. You may check Prescription Review for the person's prescription history.

Will officers working on the road have access to it?

Officers must have a bona fide specific investigation involving a designated person and internet in their vehicle to access Prescription Review on the road.

Can officers use Prescription Review to verify if a person has a valid prescription?

Only if the person is the subject of a bona fide investigation.

How will communication and tutorials be shared?

Via [email listserv updates](#) and posted on www.wapmp.org when available.

Will there be a law enforcement training document?

Yes. A full law enforcement guide is coming soon, and will be posted on www.wapmp.org.

Who do I contact for technical questions?

The Prescription Review Help Desk (Health Information Designs). Contact them at wapmp-info@hidinc.com or 877-719-3121.

Resources

- Washington State Department of Health's Provider factsheet: www.wapmp.org/wapmpfiles/Provider_Factsheet.pdf
- Washington State Department of Health's Dispenser factsheet: www.wapmp.org/wapmpfiles/Dispenser_Factsheet.pdf
- Washington State Department of Health's Public Factsheet: www.wapmp.org/wapmpfiles/Public_Factsheet.pdf
- Drug Enforcement Administration, Office of Diversion Control: www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/
- Epidemic: Responding to America's Prescription Drug Abuse Crisis: www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/ondcp/issues-content/prescription-drugs/rx_abuse_plan.pdf
- National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators: http://naddi.associationdatabase.com/aws/NADDI/pt/sp/Home_Page
- National Drug Threat Assessment (see Controlled Prescription Drugs on page 37): www.justice.gov/ndic/pubs44/44849/44849p.pdf
- Office of National Drug Control Policy: www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/prescription-drug-abuse
- PMP Center of Excellence Notes from the Field — Using PMP Data in Drug Diversion Investigations: www.pmpexcellence.org/sites/all/pdfs/NFF_kentucky_5_17_11_c.pdf